

Hamilton Field, Temporary Post Exchange  
(Facility No. 145)  
Hangar Avenue between San Pablo Avenue  
and Caliente Real  
Novato  
Marin County  
California

HABS No. CA-2398-D

HABS  
CAL  
21-NOVA,  
1D-

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
San Francisco, California

**HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY**

**HAMILTON FIELD  
Temporary Post Exchange  
(Facility No. 145)**

HABS  
CAL  
21-NOVA,  
ID-

**HABS No. CA-2398-D**

**Location:** Hamilton Army Air Field  
Novato, Marin County, California  
Temporary Post Exchange  
Facility No. 145 (Hangar Drive between San Pablo Avenue and Caliente Real)

U.S.G.S.: Novato, CA. Quadrangle (7.5' series), 1954 (revised 1980)  
Petaluma Point, CA. Quadrangle (7.5' series), 1959 (revised 1980)  
UTM Coordinates: Zone 10; A: 542100/4213620; B: 544720/4212220;  
C: 542760/4210650; D: 541040/4212600

**Significance:**

Facility No. 145 is a typical World War II-era cantonment building, constructed for use as a temporary post exchange. During the war, it was a part of a large group of temporary quarters and service buildings constructed east of the hangars that has since been demolished.

See narrative for Hamilton Field (HABS No. CA-2398) for a comprehensive Statement of Significance and individual report HABS No. CA-2398-A for a condensed Statement of Significance.

**Description:**

This building was at one time the northwesternmost building in a World War II temporary housing area; all other associated buildings have been removed. Facility 145 is a rectangular (37 feet by 99 feet), one story frame building with a low-pitched composition gable roof with metal louvers on the east side. The truss system is composed of six-inch by 12-inch beams spaced six feet apart; each beam is supported by one-inch by six-inch braces. Four raised roof ventilators capped with sheet metal and a curved flue with a four-foot-high stack are present on the building. The original siding was 1-inch by 10-inch horizontal boards but it was covered with asbestos shingle siding in the mid-1950s. The building sits on a concrete foundation and a concrete ramp leads to a double door on the north side.

Exterior windows are double hung wood sash with six lights in each pane. The north and south facades, the long sides of the building, have six windows spaced around a double door. The west side has three windows and a double entry door and the east side has only one window and a single door. Doors are solid core wood with four-light pane over three recessed panels. Metal security lights holders are located to the side of the doors. A small concrete block addition with a corrugated fiberglass roof is located on the east side of the

**HAMILTON FIELD  
Temporary Post Exchange  
(Facility No. 145)**

**HABS No. CA-2398-D Page 2**

building at the north end. Vegetation around this post exchange includes mature conifers and other trees, roses, and ice plant around the south side foundation.

The original flooring in the building was tongue and groove lumber; it is covered with eight-inch-square vinyl asphalt tile in a marbled red pattern. Walls are temporary wood partitions. One office in the northwest corner of the building is wood paneled. Some rooms have acoustical tile suspended ceilings but the majority of the offices have exposed roof beams. Original light fixtures were ceiling-mounted "schoolhouse" fixtures with milk glass bulbs. These are still present in the hallway but the offices have two tube fluorescent light fixtures with metal hoods suspended from the ceiling. Heat is through an exposed duct system.

One bathroom is in the building and contains two urinals, two flush valve toilets divided by wood stall partitions, and one wall-mounted hand sink, all made by Standard. A cast iron mop sink is also present. Wainscoting in the latrine is a laminated linoleum in a wood grain pattern.

**Historical Context:**

See narrative for Hamilton Field (HABS No. CA-2398) and Section B in report HABS No. CA-2398-F.

Completed on February 14, 1941, for a cost of \$8,200.00, this building was a post exchange during the war and served the men living in nearby barracks. After the barracks were removed, the exchange was converted to a field training facility, a function it maintained from around 1960 until base closure in 1974.

**Sources:**

See narrative for Hamilton Field (HABS No. CA-2398) and Section B in report HABS No. CA-2398-F.

See the project Field Record, roll 78, exposures 1-10.

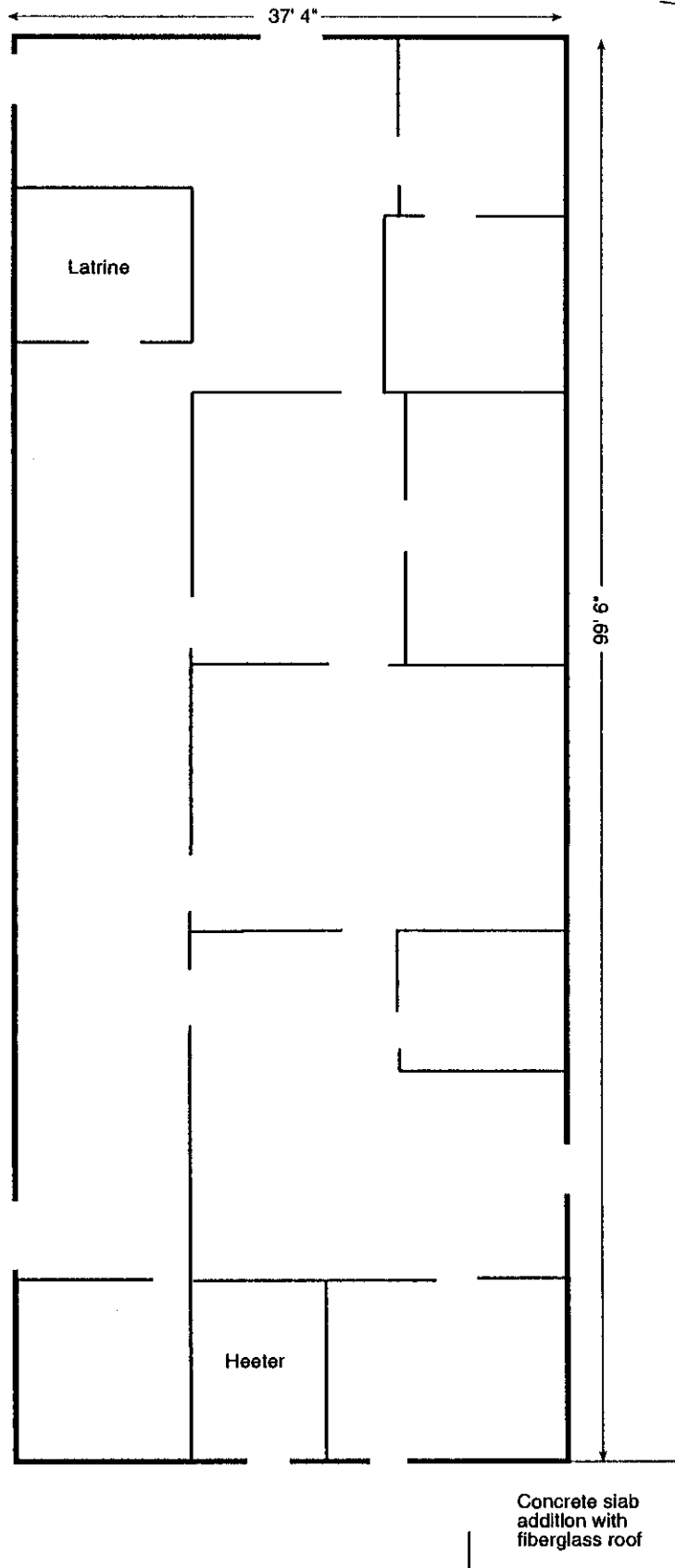
The line drawn sketches were drafted on site in 1994 by Keith Syda, scanned into a computer and drawn by Christopher MacDonald in 1995, and corrected and finalized by Claire Warshaw in 1996 (all PAR Environmental Services, Inc. staff).

**Project Information:**

Hamilton Army Air Field is owned by various federal entities including the Department of the Navy, Department of the Army, United States Coast Guard, and General Services Administration (GSA). The Army/GSA parcels are being excessed and sold to private developers. The Navy property is included in Base Closure and Realignment actions.

As part of the Army's undertaking, it has been determined in consultation with the California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) that the excess sale will have an affect on properties at the air field, and that these properties are components of a district that is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Based on consultation with the OHP and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, pursuant to 36 CFR part 800, regulations implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470f), a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was entered into by the interested parties in March 1994. The agreement stipulated that prior to excess sale the Army must contact the HABS/HAER division at the Western Regional Office of the National Park Service, San Francisco, California, to determine the appropriate level and kind of recordation for the subject properties. The MOA further stipulated that copies of the documentation be made available to the OHP and appropriate local archives designated by the OHP. This recordation has been prepared in order to meet those stipulations.

Text prepared by: Mary L. Maniery/Judith Marvin  
Title: Historian/Architectural Historian  
Affiliation: PAR ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, INC., Sacramento  
Date prepared: July 1995  
Photography prepared by: David De Vries  
Affiliation: Mesa Technical, Berkeley, California  
Date of photographs: September 1994



NOTE: Individual room function is unknown